

**DON'T FAINT**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 4 (Text Verses 1, 16)**

**Introduction**

Have you ever fainted? At first, everything is going along fine.

Then suddenly you get this feeling as if all your blood got drained from your head and you get a strange feeling.

Maybe distant objects aren't in focus quite as clearly.

Some of your body parts begin to feel like they aren't attached to your body anymore.

Suddenly you black out or pass out.

Then, if you didn't have the good sense to sit down, you fall down.

So we could describe the fainting process as: **faltering, fading, fainting, and falling.**

Our text refers to a Christian fainting in a spiritual sense. The pattern is the same: **faltering, fading, fainting, and falling.**

Notice our text (**vs. 1, 16**):

We need to see that we have a reason NOT to faint!

We've been commissioned by the Lord.

We are to be committed to that commission that He has given us and have convictions about it!

God's desire for us is for us NOT TO FAINT, but rather for us to press on!

Jesus said, in Luke 18:1—"*Men ought always to pray, and not to faint!*"

We could think of prayer being like smelling salts!

Paul exhorted in Galatians 6:9—"*And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not*"

He acknowledged that WE CAN get weary in well doing! And if we are not careful, we'll faint or quit!

What do we need to know about this matter of **not** fainting spiritually?

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**I. OUR COMMISSION IS DIVINE! (Vs. 1-7)**

Think about what have we received of the Lord!

**A. We Have Been Given God's Mercy! (Vs 1)**

*Titus 3:5—“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

*1 Peter 1:3—“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.”*

*1 Peter 2:10—“Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”*

**B. We Have Been Given God's Ministry! (Vs. 1-5)**

Whatever we do in ministry we need to make sure that we are doing it for the Lord because true ministry comes from Him!

**1. Our Ministry Is Handling The Word Of God!(Vs. 2)**

We are handling something that belongs to God!

We are STEWARDS of the Word of God!

**2. Our Manifestation Is To Be Consistent With The Word And The Character Of God! (Vs 2)**

(Not in dishonesty, craftiness, or deceit but by manifestation of the Truth!)

**3 The Devil Opposes God's Ministry (The Ministry Of The Word!) (Vs. 3-4)**

Satan is ALWAYS trying to **deceive; defile; defeat; & destroy!** We are not to have any participation in those things!

**4. We Are To Follow God's Agenda, Not Ours! (Vs. 5)**

After all, it is GOD'S PLAN, not ours!

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How can we tell if we're following God's Agenda and not our own agenda?

- a. **God's Agenda Exalts Christ Not Self!**
- b. **God's Agenda Serves Christ And Others For Christ's Sake, Not Self!**  
If we serve ourselves, and things get tough, we can quit and try something else.

However, we must remember that we serve Christ!  
There is no room for quit in HIS ministry!

*So, we who are saved have been given God's Mercy...God's Ministry...*

- C. **We Have Been Given God's Light! (vs. 6)**  
*Proverbs 4:19—"The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."*

***Ephesians 5:8-14***

*Matthew 5:16—"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

- D. **We Have Been Given God's Power! (vs. 7)**  
*Proverbs 24:10—"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."*

We, as Christians, are not to operate in our own human strength, but rather in God's strength.

*Acts 1:8—"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

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*Ephesians 6:10—"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."*

*2 Timothy 1:7—"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."*

*2 Timothy 2:1—"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."*

**II. OUR COMMISSION IS DIVINE!**  
**OUR CIRCUMSTANCES MAY GET DIFFICULT! (vs. 8-12)**

If things were not difficult, there would be no threat of fainting!

- A. **We Need To Maintain A Right Attitude In The Face Of Negative Circumstances! (Vs. 8-10)**

*Troubled = to crowd (literally or figuratively).*

*Distressed = to hem in closely, that is, (figuratively) cramp.*

*Perplexed = to have no way out, to be at a loss (mentally).*

*Despair = to be utterly at a loss, to be despondent.*

*Persecuted = pursued*

*Forsaken = deserted.*

*Cast down = thrown down.*

*Destroyed = to destroy fully.*

- B. **We Need To Die To Self Everyday! (Vs. 10-11)**

As Paul died to himself and his desires, the life of Christ was made more manifest or we could say that the life of Christ became more revealed in his life!

We must die to self; die to hurt; die to personal ambition; die to criticism; die to pride; die to whatever might try to hinder our walk, so we can live for Christ!

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**C. We Must Work Until We Die So Others May Live! (Vs. 12)**  
If the Lord tarries, we all know that we will die physically.

Yet, we faint not, even though we know death is working in us.  
We do this, so that others may obtain eternal life as we have obtained eternal life.

*OUR COMMISSION IS DIVINE!*

*OUR CIRCUMSTANCES MAY GET DIFFICULT!*

**III. OUR CONVICTION MUST BE DEFINITE! (Vs. 13-16)**

**A. Our Conviction, Though In Our Hearts, Should Come Out Of Our Mouths! (Vs. 13-14)**

What enabled the Apostle Paul to endure even in the face of great hardship and suffering and not faint?(**Psalm 116:3-10**)

Just as the Psalmist was confident that God would deliver him from death, Paul shared the same confidence. He had great conviction regarding the resurrection of both Christ and saints.

**Philippians 1:20-23**

**B. Our Conviction Should Influence Others! (Vs 15)**

Is your conviction about Christ so strong and so bold that it influences others around you?

**C. Our Influence Of Others Is A Reason Not To Faint!(Vs 16)**

**D. We Need To See Our Suffering Here For Christ As It Really Is! (Vs. 17)**

**E. We Need To Focus On The Eternal Things We Cannot See Rather Than The Temporal Things We Can See! (Vs. 18)**

**Conclusion**

*Psalm 27:13—"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living."*

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Oh dear Christian, we will be raised and presented (vs. 14).

We will be glorified (vs. 17-18).

It is our cause that should keep us from fainting (v. 16).

It is the cause of Christ!

**OUR COMMISSION IS DIVINE!**

We Have God's Mercy, His Ministry, His Light, and His Power!

**OUR CIRCUMSTANCES MAY GET DIFFICULT!**

But We Must Maintain A Right Attitude!

We Must Die To Self!

We Must Continue To Work So That Others May Live!

**OUR CONVICTION MUST BE DEFINITE!**

We Have The Resurrection To Look Forward To!

The Question Is, Are We Living Our Lives In View Of The Resurrection And Eternity, Or Are We Living Our Lives For What We Can Get Out Of It Temporally?